

# NEWSLETTER of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE TEACHERS OF AGRICULTURE

VOL. I

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No. 1

## Publications Committee

W. Clyde Hyder  
Christian Fischer  
Clarence Pearce  
W. W. Hoy  
James Elliott  
John A. Wright, Chairman

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message .....	1
Secretary's Message .....	2
Committee Reports .....	3
Ph. D. Advice .....	5
Hospitality .....	6
Gleanings .....	6
National Legislation .....	8

## ATTENTION DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE

We are trying to publish this issue of the NACTA NEWSLETTER on a shoe-string, therefore we are only mailing copies to the Agriculture Directors and to individual members of the organization. PLEASE pass the copies that come to your school among your staff and we will send copies to each one next issue. USE this, as well as your own faith in the importance of the organization to encourage 100 per cent membership from your institution.

## Editorial Comment

The work in publishing a newsletter is almost prohibitive, though its value can hardly be measured. Since this one will have to be passed from one committee and one geographic location to another, the mechanics of compiling and mailing will always be difficult. However, since the initial effort has now been made, let neither lack of interest nor procrastination prevent its REGULAR appearance!

This is the second such (or rather similar) publication that I have helped set in order and it is a signal accomplishment to me to get this first issue PRINTED (rather than mimeographed).

My personal gratitude to my committee and to the others who contributed to this issue. There is no lack of understanding on my part of the inability of some who were asked to contribute but were pressed for time. I personally have not had time up to now since the convention to make even this feeble effort. May this be the poorest issue we ever have!

**Please submit a name for our  
NACTA Newsletter to your  
publications chairman.  
Plan Now To Attend the 1958  
Convention**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By BURTON W. DeVEAU

The production of this newsletter is a significant step in the development of the NACTA. It provides our organization with a much-needed medium of communication among its members and the schools they represent. The success of this newsletter and the rapidity with which it develops into a full-scale journal depends upon the entire membership. YOU can help implement and further develop this

publication by sending the Publications Chairman, John A. Wright, various news items on trips taken, conferences attended, changes in your agriculture program, hints concerning student and faculty activities, and articles on teaching techniques, research, etc. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated by the entire membership.

The Program Committee met at Cape

Girardeau, Missouri, June 11, 1957, and were very enthusiastic about their plans for the NACTA meeting at Arkansas State College March 20-22, 1958. These convention dates and the tentative program were approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting in St. Louis on September 21, 1957. The meeting for 1958 is one you should definitely plan to attend!

It is thrilling to see the interest many of the committee chairmen and committee members have exhibited by accepting their assignments and undertaking to solve them shortly after our 1957 meet-

ing. The life and vitality of any organization is dependent upon the zeal and devotion of its members — NACTA is the result of the concerted efforts of its members. It is my sincere desire that our enthusiasm and efforts will become further stimulated so that NACTA will advance beyond all our dreams during this next year.

I am grateful to each member for his expression of faith and confidence in electing me as President. Proudly I hold the office and hope to perform my tasks equal to or beyond your expectations.

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By RALPH A. BENTON

The National Association of College Teachers of Agriculture has made a good beginning but we must keep pressing forward in order to hold our gains and to encourage potential members to become active. Last year in the United States, 165 colleges and universities, (not including the Land-Grant colleges), were giving instruction in agriculture — 94 senior colleges and 69 junior colleges, employing together a total of 882 men teaching agricultural subjects. Your secretary has information that at least another 25 colleges come in this category and an effort is being made to interest them. It appears that there are approximately 1000 men who are potential members of NACTA. Are not these prospects a real CHALLENGE? Each member should feel the responsibility of assisting his regional director in contacting these schools.

Who is YOUR regional director? Regions and directors are: Central Region, H. D. Corbus, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Western Region, J. Wendell Stucki, Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho; Southern Region, James D. Hamilton, Austin Peay State College, Clarksville, Tennessee. At present there are no members from the Eastern Division, hence no director. Is distance from the site of the annual meeting the greatest barrier? If so, should we begin thinking in terms of regional meetings? This will be discussed at the next annual

conference.

From the beginning it was believed that a strong annual conference program was a necessity. This has been pursued as policy and at least one speaker of national repute will appear on the fourth annual conference program next March.

It is also important at this time to recall the original purposes of our organization as stated in the constitution. They are (1) to coordinate and improve college teaching in agriculture, (2) to make available college instruction in agriculture to the greatest number of people, and (3) to encourage and promote research in agriculture among members of the association. How are we measuring up to these goals? Do we need additional ones?

Finally, I recall the penetrating remarks of the late Dr. G. W. Diemer, former President of Central Missouri State College, at the opening of the second annual conference at Warrensburg, Missouri. He emphasized (1) the need for redefining our objectives in teaching agriculture, (2) the need for a new vision in our colleges, (3) the challenge of the next 25 years, and (4) Dr. Diemer asked this question, "Are our colleges ready to meet these advances, in fact, are we ready and willing to step out and take the lead?"

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## IMPROVEMENT OF COLLEGE TEACHING

By E. B. KNIGHT, Chairman

### Let's Check — Then Project

In this fast intercontinental missile era much of what was staple yesterday and even today may be well nigh useless tomorrow. This is quite true of Agriculture whether it be in the farming or related occupations areas. Such being the situation, it follows that college teachers of Agriculture must take stock of WHAT they teach, HOW they teach it and how it stacks up when measured by current yard sticks THEN project into the future in order to help students cope with the years to come.

Here at Tennessee Tech as is the situation in many other colleges which teach Agriculture we are cognizant of the need for a critical scrutiny of our curricula. We are currently engaged in an appraisal of our courses; viewing them not only in terms of what is needed in farming today but also what will be needed tomorrow—and perhaps in tomorrow's tomorrow. Among the techniques which we are using are trips to research centers, study of what other colleges are doing, conferences with farm leaders and constant analysis of the literature pertaining to farming. Periodically, we discuss these matters on an inter-departmental basis.

Another source of information which we believe will be very significant is the returns from a questionnaire which our Agricultural Education Department is circulating among our 500 or more graduates. These men are giving us facts as to their occupational histories since receiving their B. S. degrees in Agriculture. Incidentally, we are especially concerned with their reactions to the question, "What can Tech do to better prepare its students for their future lives?" To date their responses have been stimulating — and at times rather disconcerting!

As of the moment, our studies have

made us conscious that Agriculture is a dynamic field and very much in a state of flux. The influence of mechanization, genetic and nutritional discoveries, fertilizer practices, new chemicals and changes in the economic picture have been striking and point the way to trends which cannot be ignored. All must be considered if we are to meet the current and future needs of our students.

Significant trends among the occupations related to Agriculture are also appearing, particularly in the commercial and industrial sectors, which give evidence of constantly increasing opportunities for the agriculturally trained. Clearly, there is need for more classroom study of economics, accounting, salesmanship, business management and kindred subjects so that our young men can meet the qualifications desired by commercial concerns. Combined with a sound technical agricultural training such collegiate preparation is most attractive to employers. And, as an aside item, our student clubs this year are sponsoring a series of clinics in which representatives of industrial and commercial agricultural companies discuss their fields, and are later available for interviews. These clinics to serve supplement the usual talks given by experienced professional workers.

Yes, to do our job competently as college teachers of Agriculture, we must constantly check and evaluate what we do in our classrooms and laboratories. To be sound in our teaching it is necessary that we also go to the occupations for which we are preparing students in order to obtain the complete picture. Through this pattern of checking and projecting in the future we will more nearly merit the greatest title of all — an excellent teacher!

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

By B. W. DeVEAU and R. A. BENTON

NACTA Executive Committee met in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 21, 1957, and approved the tentative program and the dates of March 20, 21 and 22, 1958, for the 4th Annual Convention.

Appointment of the nominating, resolutions and auditing committees was made so that much of their work may be done in advance of the convention. Members having suggestions to these committees are asked to send them to the chairmen before the opening of the annual conference.

The following were appointed to the nominating committee: H. D. Corbus, Chairman, Western Michigan University; A. L. Leonard, Texas Tech; and J. D. Schatz, Southwest Missouri State College.

Appointed to the resolutions committee were: E. F. Low, Chairman, Central Missouri State College; F. Wolford, Berea College; Charles DeNure, Wisconsin State College; and J. C. Green, Stephen F. Austin State College. It was decided that the Resolutions Committee will serve as a policy development committee, polling the membership for suggestions and opinions; channeling suggestions to the appropriate committees; and presenting motions before the membership.

Composing the auditing committee are: L. Morris, Chairman, Brigham Young University; L. VanEtten, Western Illinois State College; and M. W. Walker, Murray State Agricultural College.

Annual dues were discussed and the Executive Committee will recommend to the members at the 1958 conference that these be set at \$7.50 for 1959. According to the Constitution and By-Laws, the NACTA fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year. The 1958 dues are \$5.00, are due January 1, 1958, and should be paid before the termination of the 1958 conference.

Members of the Executive Committee were unanimous in their thinking that NACTA members should be asked in advance of the conference if their school desires to be host to the group the following year. IF YOUR school desires to host the 1959 convention, PLEASE contact President DeVeau before the 1958 meeting. Instructions will be given in order that you may come prepared to extend your invitation.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 4:00 p.m., March 20, 1958, at State College, Arkansas.

# PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

By JOHN A. WRIGHT

It is our sincere hope that the release of our first newsletter is a milestone in the development of NACTA and a suitable beginning for the publication of a worth-while journal by this organization. Our efforts to this point have been inadequate, but we pledge renewed zeal in serving as your publications committee. The publications committee has not been polled on the following suggestions; I make them none the less for whatever they are worth and shall pass them on to

the resolutions committee for action at the next annual meeting:

1. That the NACTA publish a newsletter quarterly
2. That two Editorial staffs be appointed to serve under one chairman
3. That each staff do two of the publications on an alternating basis
4. That one college (town) be designated with a permanent committee to handle

printing and mailing — this for two reasons: the same printer would do the work each time and postal regulations for a virtually free mailing permit could be met.

5. That within the Publications committee an advertising manager be designated.

6. That a designated portion of the annual dues be earmarked for support of

the publication in order that we may have a bona fide subscriber list (if needed for a mailing permit)

Please make your suggestions NOW of items or articles (requests or contributions) that you would like to have in the next issue of the newsletter which will be mailed the latter part of February 1958. Perhaps we can choose a suitable name at the convention.

## SO YOU ARE PLANNING TO BEGIN WORK ON A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE?

By J. C. GREEN

My hat is off to any college teacher who is seriously thinking of beginning work toward a Ph.D. degree. Such an attitude indicates an individual's desire to give his students the benefit of superior training by adequately preparing himself for the position as a college teacher. However, let me hasten to say that the degree is no guarantee for successful teaching at any level.

Since I have completed all the requirements for the degree except finishing the dissertation it might be possible for me to make a few helpful suggestions to those who are contemplating such a course. First, I would suggest that you select the college or university which offers the best program in your major field, and if everything else is equal I would advise you to choose the institution nearest home. This will not only be cheaper, but you will receive training slanted toward the needs of your region.

Second, you should visit the institution of your choice and get those in charge to plan your entire program as completely as possible, and while there you should get a definite expression from the department head as to the amount of work he will accept from the college where you are teaching. If you have a family your program should be carefully explained to them, because there are certain sacrifices all must make. Check

carefully the matter of securing a scholarship, fellowship, or teacher grant. Try the highest hurdle first by preparing for the reading knowledge examination of two foreign languages. Audit the freshman course at your college and devote most of your efforts towards translating some material in your field.

Attend the college of your choice for one summer term before definitely deciding you will complete the degree there. This is very important because it gives you an opportunity to "scout" the institution, faculty and living conditions before taking the final step. Select a research problem as soon as possible and be very careful to choose one of reasonable scope. Work out a carefully planned time-table and stay with it.

Prepare a complete filing system of every phase of your program and keep it in perfect order. You should attempt to keep complete notes in every course and develop a sixth sense of recognizing the important things. Keep two sizes of index cards in your pocket at all times for taking notes of the many things you must read (three important things should go on each card: title of the book or article, the author, and the page numbers). Last but not least, you should set your determination gauge for two, three or four years of the hardest work you

have ever done in your life.

I must be truthful — you have a long, hard row to hoe, and the weeds will be as high as your head every foot of the way. I have enjoyed every challenging minute of my graduate program, because

I am working at a task which rewards me as I take each measured step. Yes, I waited too long to begin and will not live long enough to regain the salary I have lost, but I have no regrets. Good luck.

## GLEANINGS FROM THE 1957 CONVENTION SPEECHES

By CLYDE HYDER

Quoted and condensed from the presidential address by M. Hayne Folk, Jr.: "In modern America, we believe that agriculture is the finest profession a young man or woman can choose. Over 500 different occupations are now available in the agricultural field; these digested into 8 basic areas include: research, industry, finance, education, communications, conservation, farming and ranching and special services. They could employ 15,000 NEW college graduates.

There will be greater numbers of students attending colleges in the next few years, therefore it should be our main objective to sell these students on agricultural careers by pointing out the advantages of studying agriculture, by giving them good training and placing them in desirable positions upon graduation."

Quoted and condensed from an address given by William O. Trogdon of the Olin Matheson Corp.: "Intelligent agriculture is one of the most complicated of all businesses. Industry and the general public expect any agricultural graduate to have sufficient knowledge to make a

contribution to his community.

College is the place where our knowledge, ideas and facts are formally presented at the highest level, and where the basic facts are obtained on mathematics, chemistry, physics, and biology and where liberal arts training can be integrated into an overall application of knowledge. Each year a smaller percentage of high school graduates are entering colleges, but even fewer are qualifying for degrees in agriculture. This means there are fewer trained graduates for new and vacated jobs in industry, colleges, and universities, and in federal, state and local government.

Progress indicates that students have received the fundamental training on which to build and learn after graduation that they have made economic application of the knowledge. As long as we depend on agriculture for food, fiber, and shelter for the peoples of the world, there will be a need for graduates in agriculture. Our leaders in agriculture of the future are the students in our agriculture departments today."

**THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE,  
IF OUR YOUTH WILL SEEK THEM.**

## HOSPITALITY — SOUTHERN STYLE

By JAMES ELLIOTT

The South has long been famous for its own particular kind of hospitality. When ordinary hospitality is mixed with the treatment received from Dr. Paul L. Boynton and the Agricultural Staff at

Stephen F. Austin College during the 1957 NACTA Convention — that's SOUTHERN hospitality. Little extras, with warmth, differentiates the southern style. That "Howdy, youall," followed by a warm

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handshake, earmarks the beginning of friendly conversation that is long remembered.

It is a pretty well-known fact that people of the South take a little longer to do things than people from other sections of the country. Perhaps this is the reason that a little different brand of kindness and generosity is demonstrated in the South. Folks just seem to take a little more time in making their visitors feel at home.

Do we intend to say that hospitality does not exist except in the South? No! Each area comes forth with its own particular brand. It's just that in some instances not too much time is devoted to the art. Most people have an inborn

tendency to be friendly and hospitable—in the South this tendency is cultivated with a great degree of pride and enjoyment. That which some people have to strive hard to acquire seems to come naturally for the folks of the South.

The host who greeted his visitors by saying, "Well, howdy, I thought you never would get here," and departed company by saying, "Do you have to leave so soon?" began and ended a visit to be long remembered and one which will be repeated at the earliest possible date. That's hospitality — SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY — in fact.

Our warmest appreciation to Stephen F. Austin College and Texas for a wonderful 1957 Convention.

### QUOTED

The following is an editorial from the Ruston Daily Leader which we believe contains some timely thoughts and have asked permission to reprint it for our benefit.

### THE MOST PROGRESSIVE INDUSTRY

Much of the 1957 harvest is yet to be completed. But present expectations in farm circles are that it will prove to be a very generous harvest and that total farm production for 1957 will be at near record levels. The number of people actually living and working on farms has continued to decline rather rapidly. But farm production has remained at a very high level. Fewer and fewer farmers are able to grow more and more food for more and more people.

Since 1950, according to one United States Department of Agriculture estimate, the national population has increased about 19,000,000 but the number of people living on farms has decreased about 4,500,000.

The decline in farm population has led some observers to look on agriculture itself as a declining industry and to suggest that perhaps less attention should be given to farm problems and to research and education in agriculture. But, as one agriculture spokesman has pointed out, agriculture is in fact one of the most vigorous and progressive industries in America today.

One of the most important reasons for the economic strength of America today is the fact that improvements in farming methods have freed most Americans from the task of growing food and enabled them to take part in development of industry, business and the professions. In some countries as many as 80 per cent of the people still must work on farms.

This scientific and technological development in agriculture is continuing rapidly, as the figures on population changes since 1950 show. No other industry can boast of an equal improvement in production per worker during any similar length of time.

Agriculture will decline and lose its importance only when food loses its importance.

## SOME NATIONAL LEGISLATION AFFECTING NACTA MEMBERS

By W. W. HOY

### MORE MEMBERS:

A report to Congress was made by the Commission on Increased Industrial Use of Agricultural Products. A long-term program was recommended including an appropriation of approximately \$48,435,000 (plus other indeterminate sums to be derived from allocation of 15 per cent of gross annual customs receipts.) These funds are to be used for basic research and for commercial development research intended to speed up discovery of new crops or to discover new industrial uses for such old established crops as may be in serious surplus.

It was proposed that facilities of the USDA, Land Grant Colleges, Experiment Stations be utilized. FURTHER, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT CONTRACTS BE MADE WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, profit or non-profit research organizations.

Recommendation was made that incentive payments be made to FARMERS or industrial establishments for the speeding up and proving up of the above research.

At this date I am unable to say whether Congress acted on this matter. More information could be obtained by writing the Commission Office: Increased Industrial Use of Agricultural Products, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

### GOVERNMENT SPONSORS CONTRACT FARMING:

Contract farming may have started with cooperatives. At this date all that keeps private enterprise from going all our for contract farming is the Commodity Credit Corporation and high price supports.

### A GOOD INVESTMENT:

Increased appropriations for the Soil Conservation Service amounting to approximately \$14,383,000 for 1958. An appropriation of \$10,000,000 for The Great Plains Conservation can also be applauded as good investment.

### ANTICIPATED:

Further legislation to assure that retirement dollars of NACTA members will not DISINTEGRATE into smaller pieces of buying power.

## PLACEMENT SERVICE

Remember that NACTA has a Placement Service Committee for its members. Some have taken advantage of this contact this year. If you desire to hire someone or if you seek a different position, please contact M. Hayne Folk, Jr., Dean

of the School of Agriculture at Louisiana Tech, Ruston, La., who is chairman of this committee. Other members of the committee are: S. M. Dell, J. C. Green, John Schatz, and J. A. Chandler.



# FOURTH ANNUAL NACTA CONVENTION -- 1958

March 20, 21, 22

Arkansas State College

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Note: Delegate names to convention should be received as far in advance as possible for personalized favors.

## HOUSING

### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Hotel Noble \$3.00 - \$4.00 — Single; \$5.00 - \$7.00 — Double. Faller Motel, Rt. 63 East \$4.00 - \$6.00 — Single; \$6.00 - \$8.00 — Double. Jonesboro Motor Court, Rt. 63 West \$4.00 - \$6.00 — Single; \$6.00 - \$8.00 — Double. Other smaller motels also available. Housing reservations should be made 10 days to 2 weeks in advance. Through Mr. Roy Fogle, Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, Jonesboro, Arkansas, housing accommodations for Negro delegates will be available in private homes through the courtesy and assistance of the teachers of Booker T. Washington School, Jonesboro, Arkansas, Mr. George Kimbell, Principal.

## TRANSPORTATION:

Frisco and Cotton Belt Railroads; Connections with all bus lines; located on U. S. Hwy. 63, Arkansas Hwys. 1, 18, and 39.

## COLLEGE

(For Meetings and Meals) Wilson Auditorium, Cafeteria;

ACCOMMODATIONS: Wigwam, and Agriculture Building.

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 20 (Afternoon and Evening)

4:00 Executive Committee Meeting

8:00 Introductions (Prof. Ed. D. Moore, Chairman Program Committee)

Introduction of and Welcome by Dr. Carl R. Reng, President

Arkansas State College

Announcements

Address by Dr. Burton W. DeVeau, President of NACTA

Mixer

Committee Meetings

**Friday, March 21 (Morning and Afternoon)**

- 6:45 Breakfast—ASC Wigwam—Prof. J. Wendell Stucki, Presiding
- 8:15 Committee Reports — Publications, Placement, Public Relations.
- 9:00 "Deficiencies of Prospective College Students," by Mr. Arch Ford, State Education Commissioner.  
Discussion
- 10:15 "Agricultural Training as Related to Agricultural Policy." by Dr. J. Carroll Bottum, Assistant Head, Agricultural Economics, Purdue University.
- 12:00 Lunch—Stateroom, ASC Cafeteria—Prof. H. D. Corbus, Presiding
- 1:00 Panel Discussion on Curriculum Problems, Dr. E. E. Puls, Chairman
- 2:15 Panel: "Role of Co-Curriculum Activities and Total Student Development,"  
Chairman, Dr. John T. Carter.
- 3:15 Business Meeting, Presiding, Dr. DeVeau  
a. All items requiring formal vote  
b. Election of officers for 1958  
c. Selection of a site for 1959 Conference
- 4:00 Tour of Campus

**Friday Evening**

- 7:00 Banquet—Stateroom ASC, Ed. D. Moore, Presiding  
Speaker and Topic to be announced  
Entertainment — Music Department, ASC
- 8:45 1958 Executive Committee Meeting  
Committee Meetings  
Bull Sessions

**March 22 (Saturday Morning)**

- 6:45 Breakfast—ASC Wigwam, James Hamilton, Presiding
- 8:15 Committee Reports, Improvement of College Teaching, Agriculture Contests.
- 9:00 Panel: "How Best Can the Association Serve Its Members," William Brazziel, Chairman
- 10:00 Business Meeting: Statement from past president, greetings from new president, auditing committee report, resolutions committee report, committee assignments, announcements.
- 11:30 Adjournment  
Committee Meetings

Note: Delegates are cordially invited to bring their wives. Ladies entertainment to be arranged by Mrs. Olen P. Nail and Mrs. Stella Reedy.

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